



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 March 2008

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- According to CNN, the Federal Aviation Administration announced Monday it is mandating that cockpit voice recorders record for longer periods of time and continue recording after a loss of power. Magnetic tape, which is vulnerable to damage, will be replaced with new technology in cockpit voice recorders (See item [17](#))
- Buffalo News reports New York has alerted 40,000 members in Western and Northeastern New York that they may be at risk for identity theft, after a former employee's laptop computer went missing with confidential information several months ago. The Buffalo-based parent of Blue- Cross BlueShield of Western New York sent letters late last week to the affected customers. (See item [24](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical:** ELEVATED, **Cyber:** ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 11, Industrial Info Resources* – (Tennessee) **Columbia Gulf rushing to repair damage at compressor station.** Columbia Gulf Transmission Company is in a rush to restore pipeline pressure after its 52,000-horsepower natural gas compressor station in Hartsville, Tennessee, was severely damaged by a tornado on February 5. The compressor station was put out of service from the tornado damage and associated fire. Source: <http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release.do?id=830914>

2. *March 11, Dow Jones Newswires* – (National) **U.S. refinery operating status.** The following [table](#) lists unplanned and planned production outages at U.S. refineries as reported by Dow Jones Newswires. The information is compiled from both official and unofficial refining sources and does not purport to be a comprehensive list. Most recently, Citgo reduced feed on March 10 to a fluid catalytic cracking unit at its Corpus Christi refinery owing to heavy rains. Marathon said on March 10 that its Detroit refinery entered a period of turnaround maintenance early in the week starting March 2. ConocoPhillips began two to six weeks of maintenance at unspecified units at its Wood River, Illinois, refinery on March 7. Flint Hill Resources' Minnesota refinery has reduced rates until the completion of a new crude oil pipeline later this year. Valero on March 9 began the process of restarting a hydrogen desulfurization unit in the West Plant section of its Corpus Christi refinery. Chevron reported heavy flaring on March 8 due to a compressor shutdown at its El Segundo, California, refinery.
Source: http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200803110845DOWJONESDJO_NLINE000373_FORTUNE5.htm
3. *March 10, Associated Press* – (National) **Gas prices near records, following oil.** The national average price of a gallon of gas rose 0.7 cent overnight to \$3.222 a gallon, 69 cents higher than one year ago, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That record will likely be left in the dust soon as gas prices accelerate toward levels that could approach \$4 a gallon, though most analysts believe prices will peak below that psychologically significant mark. In its last forecast, released last month, the U.S. Energy Department said prices will likely peak around \$3.40 a gallon this spring. Retail gas prices are following crude oil, which has jumped 25 percent in a month. On Monday, crude prices surged to yet another record after the U.S. Department of Commerce said wholesale sales jumped by 2.7 percent in January, their biggest increase in four years, according to Dow Jones Newswires. Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose \$2.75 to settle at a record \$107.90 on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier setting a new trading record of \$108.21.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080310/oil_prices.html?.v=38
4. *March 10, Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Lack of scrutiny for gas wells questioned.** Of the 1,010 active gas wells operating in Tarrant County, Texas, the Texas Railroad Commission – which enforces safety and environmental rules for gas drilling – has inspected 696 and left 314 uninspected. Many of the uninspected wells are in highly populated and environmentally sensitive areas. Neighborhood groups and local officials say they want the state to step up and do its part, particularly since cities cannot impose stricter safety rules than the state. The issue of inspections was first raised in an August report by the state auditor's office. The report said 46 percent of the oil and gas wells statewide had not been inspected in the previous five years. The commission's executive director said the agency does the best it can with limited staff. There are 377,000 wells in Texas, each with associated pipelines, tank batteries, and other equipment. And there are only 83 inspectors. That is about 4,500 wells per inspector. The inspectors try to make up for their lack of numbers by randomly picking wells for important inspections

such as surface casings. It would take a change in state law to add more inspectors or increase permit fees, he said. The mayor of Fort Worth said he is working with the Railroad Commission to open a satellite office in Fort Worth, with the city possibly providing office space for inspectors. The city and the Railroad Commission are also discussing joint training of each other's gas inspectors.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/189/story/520566.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 11, Medill Reports* – (Virginia) **Pentagon tests readiness for chemical attack.**
A bright blue sky and a chilly, gentle breeze – perfect weather for simulating a chemical attack on a quiet neighborhood near the Pentagon. Defense Department staff and Arlington County, Virginia, workers hit the streets of Crystal City in yellow vests this week to see how toxins would move through an urban environment in a chemical attack or accident. They released a series of safe, clear, odorless gases and picked up data from sensors placed around buildings, in ventilation systems and on rooftops. Atmospheric scientists and defense officials say chemical dispersion tests are invaluable for planning emergency response strategies, but a price tag of hundreds of thousands of dollars per test means they are reserved for locations where the government has a high national security interest. As for northern Virginia, it would be hard to find a part of the U.S. near more potential targets with symbolic and security value. There is the Pentagon, the White House, Capitol Hill, the National War College, Reagan National Airport, a subway and highway system crammed with the nation's leaders, and a slew of monuments and military bases. The Pentagon is paying the bills and providing some of the manpower for Arlington's study. The Defense Department also plans to give Arlington County more chemical detectors and a control system that would connect the sensors to a computer constantly running atmospheric models. A similar system focusing on the Pentagon already exists, said a Pentagon Force Protection Agency official.
Source: <http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/washington/news.aspx?id=82415>
6. *March 10, Concord Monitor* – (New Hampshire) **Warning: This is only a drill.** The New Hampshire guardsmen padding around the State House in hazmat suits were just practicing, but their elaborate drill involved multiple searches of the building, complex chemical tests and a credible back story. The 12th Civil Support Team, which specializes in responding to attacks involving weapons of mass destruction, was downtown Monday as part of an evaluation the unit will need to pass to remain certified. It involved fake chemical, biological and radiological weapons, which were spread throughout the building for the soldiers to find, identify and neutralize. Soldiers were told that the Legislature had held a special session Saturday to discuss gun control legislation, according to an official, who commands the unit. Later that night, the team was told, legislators started showing up at local hospitals complaining of difficulty breathing and itching, burning skin. New Hampshire's Civil Support Team is one of 55 in the country tasked with responding to local terrorism threats. Though the 22-person unit works closely with local emergency responders and federal law enforcement

agencies, it is often able to bring resources to a disaster site that other agencies do not have. In a recent Las Vegas case where the toxin ricin was found in a motel room, the local Civil Support Team was asked to test the substance and decontaminate the area. Because the teams are frequently called when there are real threats involving biological, chemical or radiological attacks, testers strive to make the scenarios challenging and realistic. The lead evaluator yesterday said last night that the team had performed well. He would not say what fictional compounds the team found.

Source:

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080310/FRONTPAGE/803100338>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *March 11, St. Petersburg Times* – (National) **Nuke plant price triples.** Progress Energy tripled its estimate for its new nuclear power plant in Levy County, Florida, saying Monday that the new price is \$17 billion. The president of Progress Energy Florida estimated that the customers' monthly bills will increase an average three to four percent a year over the next decade but are expected to spike as construction intensifies. Under Florida law, Progress Energy can start to bill customers for financing and preconstruction costs years before a new plant goes into service. The number will reverberate throughout the Southeast, where at least five similar projects have been announced. Utilities have said that surging prices for commodities like steel and concrete have driven up the cost of new nuclear, but Progress Energy is the first to offer a firm estimate. In recent weeks, the much vaunted "nuclear renaissance" has shown signs of weakening, as the rising price erodes support. South Carolina Electric & Gas, along with two subsidiaries of Southern Co., have already delayed their plans. In January, a utility pulled the plug on a planned nuclear plant in Idaho. "We're seeing some of the utilities backing off," said the executive director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. The president of Progress Energy Florida said that the company has not yet decided to build a new nuclear plant in Florida.

Source: http://www.sptimes.com/2008/03/11/State/Nuke_plant_price_trip.shtml

8. *March 10, Day* – (Connecticut) **Court rules in favor of storage of spent fuel at Millstone.** The state Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision Monday that permits the storage of spent nuclear fuel in a new facility at the Millstone complex in Waterford. The court pointed out that the Connecticut Siting Council determined that construction at the Millstone nuclear complex "would have little interference with groundwater; that the design of the facility was sound; and that no endangered, threatened, or special-concern species, or historic and archaeological resources would be affected" by the new facility. The storage area, it noted, "would be located a safe distance from residential areas, outside of a 500-year flood zone, and outside the existing tidal and inland wetlands and watercourses on the property." "I am pleased the state Supreme Court upheld the Siting Council's decision to approve temporary storage of low level nuclear waste in dry casks," said the attorney general of Connecticut. "This method is more secure than traditional pools – less vulnerable to terrorist attack and accident."

Source: <http://www.theday.com/re.aspx?re=3e18a348-c6ac-4b53-862a-2602abe7c5e0>

9. *March 10, Reuters* – (Nevada) **Nuclear regulators seek comments on Yucca Mountain.** A U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review board seeks information from members of the public interested in setting the direction of a hearing on Yucca Mountain, the long-delayed, high-level nuclear waste repository in Nevada. A board created last month will use information from interested parties to make recommendations on the hearing process to the nuclear agency. Potential parties are asked to respond to the request by March 24.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSN1047573020080310>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *March 11, Associated Press* – (National) **F-117 stealth fighter to be retired.** The world's first attack aircraft to employ stealth technology is slipping quietly into history. The radar-evading F-117, which spent 27 years in the Air Force arsenal secretly patrolling hostile skies from Serbia to Iraq, will be retired next month in Nevada. The last F-117s scheduled to fly will leave Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico on April 21 and arrive on April 22 at their final destination at Tonopah Test Range Airfield in Nevada. The government has no plans to bring the fighter out of retirement, but could do so if necessary. The Air Force decided to accelerate the retirement of the F-117s to free up funding to modernize the rest of the fleet. The F-117 is being replaced by the F-22 Raptor, which also has stealth technology. Fifty-nine F-117s were made; ten were retired in December 2006 and 27 since then, the Air Force said. Seven of the planes have crashed.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iTsEvMq9aGzYhmNJcRMY6kA_5xRwD8VB438G0

11. *March 10, Boeing Company* – (National) **Land and sea tests verify effectiveness of Boeing biological detection system.** The U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency and Boeing have demonstrated successfully that ScanEagle unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) modified to look for biological warfare agents can effectively intercept, detect, and fly through simulated biological plumes or clouds to collect airborne agents. Tests also show that the UAVs can successfully collect airborne material and data from a target site that can help U.S. forces combat the threat from biological agents and minimize the danger to friendly forces and civilians. "We now know that we can use UAVs to find and intercept biological plumes using computerized prediction models, along with location and tracking software and other UAV-based sensors. We've also demonstrated that the BCAS (Biological Combat Assessment System) UAVs can operate at beyond-line-of-sight ranges far in excess of our program requirements," said the Boeing program manager for the BCAS Advanced Technology Demonstration program. He said these capabilities would enable U.S. forces to accurately perform at safe distances battle damage assessment of plume releases that result from counterforce strikes against facilities dedicated to the research, production, and/or storage of biological warfare

agents.

Source: <http://pressmediawire.com/article.cfm?articleID=18250>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

12. *March 11, Wall Street Journal* – (Alabama) **SEC probe turns attention to Alabama official's ties.** The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating the mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, to determine if he steered underwriting business to a local investment-banking firm in exchange for payments while he led the committee that oversaw the finances of Jefferson County. The SEC said it is seeking information related to \$5 billion raised by Jefferson County through bond offerings and derivative contracts, the same types of instruments that are at the heart of the county's current financial distress. The Montgomery, Alabama, investment bank, Blount Parrish & Co., underwrote nearly \$2 billion of the securities offerings, the SEC said. The SEC's investigation began in 2006 and is looking into whether individuals committed fraud in the offering and sale of bonds and derivatives and whether anyone made misleading statements about "improper payments made in exchange for municipal securities business," according to court papers.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120519204654725643.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

13. *March 11, KETV 7 Omaha* – (National) **Mysterious charge shows up on Omaha man's bank statement.** A mysterious charge is showing up on some bank statements across the country, and bankers said a consumer's best protection is early detection. A man said his wife found a charge for \$9.85 on their February bank statement for a company listed as Ich Services. A toll-free number listed with the charge went straight to voice mail, and he said the call was never returned. The Internet is littered with hundreds of reports of complaints about the same charge with no response from the same company. The dollar amount is similar in each case -- under \$10. A consulting firm in Pittsburgh is called ICH Services. The owner told the KETV NewsWatch 7 I-Team that the charges are not coming from him, and he said he was upset to find out someone might be using his business name. First National Bank is trying to track the origin of the charge. If it determines that the charge was fraudulent, the bank will reimburse the amount to the victim's account. Wells Fargo Bank said it, too, has received complaints from customers getting the Ich Services charge.

Source: <http://www.ketv.com/news/15557564/detail.html>

14. *March 10, SearchSecurity.com* – (National) **MTV breach affects 5,000 employees.** Employees at MTV Networks are watching their credit reports more closely after the company acknowledged that the personal information of 5,000 employees was stolen late last week. The attack took place via a laptop Internet connection, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal. Viacom Inc., which owns MTV Networks, did not release further details of the attack. In an email to employees, Viacom said employee names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth had been stolen. Viacom said in a statement that law enforcement had been contacted and a criminal investigation is

ongoing.

Source:

http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/news/article/0,289142,sid14_gcil304420,00.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

15. *March 11, Orlando Sentinel* – (New Jersey) **FAA caps flights at Newark airport.** The federal government is reducing by 13 percent peak-hours flights out of New Jersey's Newark Liberty Airport to blunt New York City-area airline delays that routinely spread nationwide. Newark will be limited to 83 flights per hour during peak periods starting in early May, a Department of Transportation Secretary said Monday. The airport handled about 95 flights per hour during last summer's peak. The 83-flight cap is the same one that starts Saturday at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, where about 100 flights per hour were scheduled last summer. Similar flight caps, which are intended to alleviate record-high delays, already exist at New York's LaGuardia Airport. The caps will be in place at Newark and JFK for two years, while LaGuardia's will remain unless the government replaces it with a new rule, a Transportation Department spokesman said.
Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-bizbriefcase1108mar11,0,6719310.story>
16. *March 11, Virginian-Pilot* – (Virginia) **Threat halts Knotts Island ferry; nothing found.** A bomb threat found on a Knotts Island ferry early Tuesday halted service temporarily while bomb experts from Virginia Beach searched and cleared both vessels. An employee found the bomb threat at 5:30 a.m. on the vessel Gov. Hunt written on what appeared to be piece of legal pad paper, said a spokesman for Currituck County. The vessel Ocracoke was also cleared. Ferries are equipped with security cameras, he said. The investigation continues. The vessels Ocracoke and Gov. Hunt cross the Currituck Sound between the mainland and Knotts Island several times daily.
Source: <http://hamptonroads.com/2008/03/threat-halts-knotts-island-ferry-nothing-found>
17. *March 10, CNN* – (National) **FAA to improve aircraft black boxes.** The Federal Aviation Administration announced Monday it is mandating that cockpit voice recorders record for longer periods of time and continue recording after a loss of power. Magnetic tape, which is vulnerable to damage, will be replaced with new technology in cockpit voice recorders. Voice recorders will be required to capture the last two hours of cockpit audio instead of the current 15 to 30 minutes, and to continue recording for nine to 11 minutes once the main power is disrupted. Digital flight data recorders, which record speed, altitude and other critical information, must now also record more data more frequently. The devices, commonly called "black boxes," are orange to make them easier to find at crash sites. The FAA rule comes nine years after the National Transportation Safety Board called on the agency to improve the recorders and does not go as far as the board recommended. Notably, the FAA did not pursue the National Transportation Safety Board recommendation to require video recording of cockpit activities. Pilot groups have opposed the use of cockpit cameras. The new standards for

the recorders will apply to all aircraft manufactured after March 7, 2010. Many builders, however, are already installing the newer equipment.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/03/10/black_boxes/index.html

18. *March 10, Reuters* – (California) **Derailment suspends Northern California rail service.** A Union Pacific freight train derailment forced the suspension of rail service in Northern California with normal service expected to resume on Monday afternoon, Union Pacific and Amtrak said on Monday. The derailment occurred on Sunday west of the Martinez station, suspending all rail service between Martinez and Richmond in the East Bay area, Amtrak said in a statement. A Union spokeswoman called the service interruptions a “very small blip” for the commodities markets and said it was minor compared to the derailment in southern California that knocked out service in the Riverside County town of Mecca for five days last week. Amtrak said its passengers using some Northern California lines would face delays and be bused between areas lacking service.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080310/us_nm/derailment_california_dc;_ylt=AhG.t8pXdIY_anbYJGANmjQWIr0F

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

19. *March 10, Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Fort Worth federal employee opens letter containing powder.** There was no anthrax or any other dangerous substance in an envelope that was opened Monday in an office at the federal building in downtown Fort Worth, officials said. The letter did, however, contain a threat to the U.S. president, and it also warned that anthrax was enclosed, officials said. Some powder fell out of the letter, but a subsequent field test indicated it was harmless. The secretary, who had opened the letter, was taken to Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital for possible decontamination, but she was unharmed and released, said a spokeswoman for the General Services Administration, which manages the building. The substance, determined to be non-toxic, will undergo more extensive tests in a laboratory, said a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Dallas. Although the letter warned that anthrax was enclosed, no evacuation of the building was ordered because the tests quickly showed there was no apparent danger.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/229/story/521739.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

20. *March 11, Wall Street Journal* – (California) **Oversight ‘flaw’ led to meat recall.** Employees of the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing plant in Chino, California, say that top company executives spent little time monitoring the facility’s outdoor cattle pens. Those cattle pens are where an undercover worker for the Humane Society of the United States secretly filmed workers last fall forcing sick or injured cows to their feet using

forklifts and water hoses. Such downer cows are generally banned from the food supply because they carry higher risks of diseases, including mad-cow disease. The video helped trigger the largest recall of beef in U.S. history last month. Hallmark/Westland halted operations last month, and it is unclear whether the privately held company will reopen. The Department of Agriculture says there is very little health risk from eating the recalled meat, which totaled 143 million pounds dating to February 2006. No illnesses have been reported.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120520382464126297.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

21. *March 10, Associated Press* – (National) **Fish fillet recall reaches 11 states.** Gorton's Inc. said Monday that the pills a Pennsylvania family reported finding in their fish fillets were harmless over-the-counter herbal supplements. The incident remains an isolated case and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is leading the investigation, Gorton's spokesman said. The Massachusetts-based company recalled about 1,000 cases of its six Crispy Battered Fish Fillets in 11 states. The product is 11.4 ounces and bears a UPC Code of No. 4440015770, date code of 7289G1 and best-if-used-by date of April 2009. It was produced in October and distributed to stores in Alabama, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-03-10-fish-recall_N.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

22. *March 11, Associated Press* – (National) **AP water probe prompts Senate hearings.** Two veteran U.S. senators said they plan to hold hearings in response to an Associated Press investigation into the presence of trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans. Also, a U.S. representative has asked the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a national task force to investigate the issue and make recommendations to Congress on any legislative actions needed. The head of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the chairman of the Transportation, Safety, Infrastructure Security, and Water Quality Subcommittee said Monday the oversight hearings would likely be held in April. The announcement came just 24 hours after the AP's release of the first installment of its three-part series, titled PharmaWater.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080311/ap_on_re_us/pharmawater_senate_hearings;_ylt=AsP1BLiJtSKYZrKc9N3HKCWs0NUE

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

23. *March 11, Chicago Tribune* – (Florida; Utah) **Fla. hospital's patient records sold at Utah surplus store.** The medical records of 28 Central Florida Regional Hospital

patients were sold last month at a Salt Lake City surplus store for about \$20 to a schoolteacher looking for scrap paper for her 4th-grade class. A shipping problem was blamed. The records contain detailed medical histories with addresses, Social Security numbers, and insurance information. In December, the box was among three shipped to a Las Vegas company for a Medicare audit, the hospital's risk manager said. The box was reported missing, but hospital officials had not contacted the affected patients.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/health/chi-nat-hospital-recordsmar11,1,1227152.story>

24. *March 11, Buffalo News* – (New York) **HealthNow data goes missing as laptop vanishes.** HealthNow New York has alerted 40,000 members in Western and Northeastern New York that they may be at risk for identity theft, after a former employee's laptop computer went missing with confidential information several months ago. The Buffalo-based parent of Blue-Cross BlueShield of Western New York sent letters late last week to the affected customers, even though officials are still not certain what, if anything, was on the unencrypted laptop. Based on the company's investigation, the potential information includes names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, addresses, employer group names, and health insurance identifier numbers. However, there was no health or medical claims information involved, a spokeswoman said late Monday. HealthNow has arranged for any affected member to receive a one-year free membership in Equifax Credit Watch, to monitor for identity theft. But the company has no plans to re-assign new health insurance identification numbers en masse, though it will do so at the request of any individual members, the spokeswoman said. While not encrypted, the laptop did have security features, including the requirement to enter the user's identification number and passcode after 15 minutes of inactivity. Also, the company shut down the laptop's access to the corporate network, and has not detected any activity from the laptop.

Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/145/story/296415.html>

25. *March 11, Roanoke Times* – (Virginia) **Rabies on the rise.** Last year Virginia had the highest number of reported cases of rabies in the past 25 years, according to a press release issued Monday by the Virginia Department of Health. There were 730 confirmed cases of rabies in animals there last year. While most of those cases were raccoons and skunks, that figure includes 36 cats and 5 dogs, mostly strays that were not vaccinated. Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. The virus passes through saliva and is easily transmitted from an animal bite. It is almost always fatal in any infected animal or human. "There are certainly more animals infected with rabies than the ones that are tested," said the state public health veterinarian.

Source: http://blogs.roanoke.com/thehappywag/2008/03/rabies_on_the_rise.html

26. *March 11, DBTechno* – (Texas) **Health alert in Texas following diarrheal illness.** The Texas Department of State Health Services has reported that a health warning is now being put in place. This comes after six cases of serious diarrheal illness appeared in the state. The diseases have all been located in Bastrop County thus far. Authorities are stating that one child has already died from the illness. It is caused by a shiga toxin which can be produced by various types of bacteria. Laboratory tests are underway to

determine the actual source of the diseases, but shiga toxin illnesses are usually food borne. Health officials stated that the number of cases in Texas each year is around 150. This year though, this outbreak has more people than usual on alert.

Source: <http://www.dbtechno.com/health/2008/03/11/health-alert-in-texas-following-diarrheal-illness/>

27. *March 10, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Pandemic flu plan would put Chicago on lockdown.** A Containing an influenza pandemic in a large U.S. city like Chicago would require widespread school closings, quarantines of infected households, and bans on public gatherings, U.S. researchers said on Monday. However, if done quickly and well, such steps could reduce infections by as much as 80 percent, said a researcher at Virginia Tech. He led one of three teams of scientists who ran computer simulations to see if drug and social containment efforts could slow the spread of an influenza pandemic in a major U.S. city such as Chicago, which has a population of about 8.6 million people. All three teams found that a combination of antiviral drugs and social distancing efforts would be needed to slow the spread of a pandemic flu, they report in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Flu is always circulating, but every few decades a completely new strain emerges and makes millions sicker than usual. Government estimates suggest vaccines and drugs will not be enough to slow or prevent a flu pandemic, and the U.S. pandemic plan includes ways to limit the spread by closing schools and implementing strategies to reduce contact with infected people. The study is available at <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.0706849105>.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080310/us_nm/birdflu_containment_dc;_ylt=AvPPUFJeEHnkpp15x0ZDh0cWIr0F

28. *March 10, United Press International* – (National) **FDA concerned about some STD medications.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has warned six companies to stop marketing unapproved drugs for treating and preventing sexually transmitted diseases. The FDA said some of the products falsely claim to have received FDA approval, while some claim to be more effective than conventional medicine. The products are sold as Tetrasil, Genisil, Aviralex, OXi-MED, Imulux, Beta-mannan, Micronutrient, Qina, and SlicPlus. Officials said the products claim to prevent or treat a variety of STDs. The FDA said it considers the products to be unapproved new drugs marketed in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Officials said the drugs are also misbranded since they lack proper directions for use and/or make false and misleading claims.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Science/2008/03/10/fda_concerned_about_some_std_medications/9209/

Government Facilities Sector

29. *March 11, Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Abandoned briefcase causes a scare at federal building.** A briefcase left unattended on the steps of the federal courthouse in Louisville, Kentucky, caused a scare yesterday, prompting police to close down two

blocks and bring in a robot to blow it up. Papers flew into the air, then littered the front lawn of the U.S. Courthouse and Custom House as a police bomb squad remotely detonated the briefcase, which had a yellow piece of paper attached to its exterior. No one was injured and no explosives were found in the briefcase, which contained only papers, said a Louisville Metro Police spokeswoman. “We’ll try to determine whether this was a threat against an individual inside the courthouse or against the building,” said a spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation office in Louisville. Three federal agencies worked with Metro Police during the incident, including the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the U.S. Marshals Service, which provides security to the federal court.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080311/NEWS01/803110391>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

30. *March 11, Capital News 9* – (New York) **New computer program prepares better responses to disasters.** A new computer modeling program can help government, law enforcement, and first responders figure out how to react to disasters and best help people affected by catastrophes. Planning with Large Agency-Networks against Catastrophes, or Plan-C for short is a program developed at New York University’s Center for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response. The program allows disaster relief agencies to simulate a catastrophic event like a hurricane or terrorist attack. But unlike other modeling software that runs similar simulations, this one also tries to predict how citizens will react, based on a whole slew of factors including their level of fear and how much they know about what is going on. NYU now plans to get input about the program from local, state, and federal officials, in order to better tailor it to their particular needs. Source: <http://capitalnews9.com/content/living/112072/new-computer-program-prepares-better-responses-to-disasters/Default.aspx>
31. *March 10, Government Executive* – (National) **NOAA completes tsunami warning system.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has deployed the final two buoys in the South Pacific that complete a computer system providing real-time data to detect tsunamis and warn U.S. coastal communities about them. NOAA launched the \$26 million Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis program, or DART, following the December 2004 tsunami that struck Indonesia, killing thousands. Each detection system includes a pressure sensor anchored to the seafloor, which transmits data on any sudden rise in the ocean floor to a surface buoy. The buoy relays the information to satellites, which in turn send it to two NOAA tsunami warning centers serving the Pacific and the West Coasts. Officials at those centers then determine whether a bulletin, watch or warning should be issued to the public. NOAA also created a tsunami Web portal to store information. NOAA was already operating six buoys in the eastern Pacific, but expanded the system to 39 by adding buoys in the western Pacific and Atlantic Ocean. NOAA upgraded all the buoys to better monitor tsunami threats and keep the public informed. In addition, the agency installed 49 new or upgraded tide gauges, along with eight seismic stations for measuring vibrations caused

by activity within the earth. Also, 26 forecast models were implemented for at-risk communities, and operations at the Pacific and West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning centers were extended to 24 hours a day.

Source: <http://govexec.com/dailyfed/0308/031008j1.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

32. *March 11, Security Products* – (National) **DHS conducts Cyber Storm II to examine cyber preparedness, response capabilities.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is conducting the largest cyber security exercise ever organized. Cyber Storm II is being held from March 10-14 in Washington, D.C. and brings together participants from federal, state and local governments, the private sector and the international community. Cyber Storm II is the second in a series of congressionally mandated exercises that will examine the nation's cyber security preparedness and response capabilities. The exercise will simulate a coordinated cyber attack on information technology, communications, chemical, and transportation systems and assets. "Securing cyberspace is vital to maintaining America's strategic interests, public safety, and economic prosperity," said DHS's assistant secretary for Cyber Security and Communications. "Exercises like Cyber Storm II help to ensure that the public and private sectors are prepared for an effective response to attacks against our critical systems and networks," he said. Cyber Storm II will include 18 federal departments and agencies, nine states (Calif., Colo., Del., Ill., Mich., N.C., Pa., Texas and Va.), five countries (United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom), and more than 40 private sector companies. For more information on Cyber Storm II, visit: http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/training/gc_1204738275985.shtm. Source: <http://www.secprodonline.com/articles/59657/>
33. *March 11, IDG News Service* – (National) **Judge rules against accused spyware distributor.** A U.S. judge has granted a request by the Federal Trade Commission for a judgment against a company accused of distributing spyware and adware onto people's computers. A judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada has ordered the accused to give up \$4,595.36, the money he made from a scheme that tricked consumers into downloading spyware by offering free screensavers and videos on his TeamTaylorMade.com Web site, the FTC said Monday. Software on the site included spyware called Media Motor from ERG Ventures that changed consumers' home pages, tracked their Internet activity, altered browser settings, degraded computer performance and disabled antispyware and antivirus software, the FTC said. ERG Ventures, based in Nevada, agreed to pay \$330,000 as part of a settlement with the FTC last September. The default judgment against the man, who has lived in Tennessee, ends the November 2006 lawsuit the FTC filed against ERG Ventures, its owners and the accused man. The FTC had accused him and ERG Ventures of distributing spyware that infected 15 million computers. Many of the malware programs were "extremely difficult or impossible" for consumers to remove from their computers, the FTC said. The judgment bars him from distributing software that interferes with consumers' computers, including software that tracks consumers' Internet activity or collects other personal

information; generates disruptive pop-up advertising; tampers with or disables other installed programs; or installs other advertising software onto consumers' computers.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=spam_malware_and_vulnerabilities&articleId=9067761&taxonomyId=85

34. *March 10, Dark Reading* – (National) **Battle against fast-flux botnets intensifies.** First there was fast flux, and now there is double flux: a variant of the stealthy fast-flux hosting technique used by major bot herders that rapidly shifts malicious Web servers and domain name servers (DNS) from machine to machine to evade detection. A new advisory by the ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) sheds new light on the emerging double flux threat and provides proposed recommendations and best practices for Internet domain registrars, ISPs, users, and other members of the Internet community, in an effort to derail fast-flux botnets. Fast flux is where botnet herders continuously move the location of a Web, email, or DNS server from computer to computer in an effort to keep its malicious activity – spamming or phishing, for example – alive and difficult to detect. IP blacklists are basically useless in finding fast flux-based botnets. The infamous Storm botnet, for instance, was one of the first to deploy this technique of preserving its botnet infrastructure and hiding from investigators. “Double-flux is just another evasion technique applying two levels of... deception as opposed to one,” says a member of ICANN’s SSAC and one of the authors of the paper. “It’s particularly troublesome because using domain names is a whole lot easier than using IP addresses. Before this, you could hone in on a domain server as a way of shutting down a [malicious] site. But now they [the bad guys] have one more tool in their evasion toolkit.” With double flux, the DNS name servers that resolve the Web host names are moved from machine to machine, as are the actual hosts serving up the phony pharmaceuticals or other nefarious sites. By the time investigators get on its trail, the fast-flux botnet has changed the IP address again, he says.

Source: http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=148002

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

35. *March 11, ZDNet* – (National) **Cisco Companies urged to ensure BlackBerry security.** Companies are being warned to make sure they correctly configure their BlackBerry devices, or risk weakening their IT security. Internet security consultancy NTA Monitor said recent testing showed that organizations are still failing to ensure the smartphone devices are locked down. It said the BlackBerry architecture can be insecure

if no firewalls are used to separate the BlackBerry Enterprise Server (BES) router component from the central BES server on the internal network. If the BES is compromised and there is no separation of the BES router, it can lead to the whole network becoming insecure, the company claimed. The technical director at NTA, said in a statement: “A hacker could potentially use this back channel to move around inside an organization undetected,” adding that the ideal scenario for BlackBerry security is to create a “demilitarized zone” to separate the router component from the BES. He explained: “If the BES router gets compromised, the demilitarized zone will ensure that there is no direct access to the local area network.” The vice president of global security at Research in Motion, which manufactures BlackBerry, said that while that solution may work for some BlackBerry customers, it is just one approach to securing the devices. He stressed that there is no “one-size-fits-all answer” to security.
Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/hardware/0,1000000091,39365233,00.htm>

36. *March 10, Multichannel News* – (National) **House panel to vet net neutrality.** A House panel on Tuesday will hear conflicting testimony on whether Congress needs to regulate cable and phone companies to prevent discriminatory behavior against Internet-based content and applications. The session will be held by the House Judiciary Committee Antitrust Task Force at a time when the Federal Communications Commission has Comcast Corp. under investigation for allegedly blocking BitTorrent uploads during hours of peak network congestion. Comcast admitted to delaying some traffic as a reasonable network management tool. Some witnesses will voice support for passage of a network neutrality law, pointing to allegations against cable, wireless and traditional phone companies as ample justification for close supervision of their network management practices.

Source: <http://www.multichannel.com/article/CA6539995.html>

37. *March 10, IDG News Service* – (National) **Cisco to patch routers on regular schedule.** Following the lead of Microsoft and Oracle, Cisco Systems will start releasing security patches for some of its products on a schedule. The scheduled updates will be for the Internetwork Operating System (IOS) software used by routers and switches that Cisco sells to enterprise and telecommunications industry customers. Other Cisco products, including those from its Linksys division, will continue to be updated as before. The first of these scheduled updates will occur on Wednesday, March 26, and Cisco will continue to release patches on a twice-yearly schedule after that, Cisco said in a note posted Wednesday on its Web site. These firmware updates will ship on the fourth Wednesday of September and March each year. That’s less frequently than the other major vendors that have moved to regular security updates. Microsoft releases its security patches on the second Tuesday of every month; Oracle is on a quarterly update schedule. Cisco published eight security advisories for IOS security bugs last year. IOS has come under increased scrutiny in recent years as hackers have developed new ways of attacking router software. Because Cisco’s routers are so widely used, IOS is considered to be an attractive target for attackers.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9067739&intsrc=news_ts_head

38. *March 10, SC Magazine* – (International) **Money-stealing mobile trojan surfaces in China.** Security researchers from McAfee have identified a trojan that attempts to extort money from owners of Symbian-based smartphones in China. After being downloaded onto the user's smartphone, the malicious software, which McAfee has dubbed Kiazha.A, deletes any SMS messages and threatens to shut the phone down unless the user sends 50 yuan (about \$7) to the malware author. The trojan asks the user to pay via QQ coins, a virtual currency used in the popular Chinese QQ instant messaging network. A security research and communications manager at McAfee's Avert Labs, told SCMagazineUS.com on Wednesday that Kiazha.A is part of a "malware cocktail" called MultiDropper.CR. The various components create a bundle that tries to persuade the user to install the package, sets up SMS forwarding to collect information, creates a QQ account, in case the victim doesn't have one, and then deletes SMS messages to cover its tracks. It then displays an offer to fix the user's phone for a small fee. The alert message displayed on the phone reads, "Warning: Your device has been affected, please prepare a recharge card of RMB 50 yuan and connect QQ [ID removed] account or your phone will be paralyzed!!!" "With MultiDropper.CR, it appears that the author, with a lot of effort and testing, put together various malware-like pieces from a toolkit," an engineer at McAfee Avert Labs said. "The author may have put in all this work to make a profit rather than increase his notoriety." Users' Symbian-based phones can become infected by visiting a malicious website and downloading apparently safe software.

Source:

<http://www.scmagazine.com/uk/news/article/789436/money-stealing-mobile-trojan-surfaces-china/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

39. *March 11, Herald Journal* – (Indiana) **Dam analysis ordered.** Resident concerns over whether flows through Oakdale and Norway Dams on the Tippecanoe River could have been better regulated to mitigate flood levels in January and February have reached the ears of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC became the licensing authority for the dams owned by Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) in September 2000 when the commission issued an order finding that the

river is navigable and the Norway-Oakdale Hydroelectric Project is required to be licensed. Although FERC representatives were not present, during recent flood meetings held by the Federal Emergency Management Agency with representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, NIPSCO, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, and other agencies, those concerns were raised by a number of flood victims.

Source:

<http://www.thehj.com/main.asp?SectionID=9&SubSectionID=32&ArticleID=23075>

40. *March 10, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **Devils Lake city leaders meet with Corps.** In North Dakota, regional leaders say they want to be prepared in the event the flooded Devils Lake continues to rise. City and county officials recently met with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials to talk about various options. “The option we talked about the most is to look at adding some height to the top of the dike” that protects the city, the mayor said. “And...something that could be added without having to increase the base, if that’s possible.” The top of the dike is at 1,460 feet above sea level, which gives the city protection from a lake level of 1,453 feet. The lake froze this winter at 1,446.8 feet. Devils Lake has risen more than 25 feet since 1993, and a recent report from a U.S. Geological Survey statistician said the wet cycle in the region began about 1980. It said there is a 72 percent chance that wet conditions in the region will persist at least another decade and a 37 percent chance they will last another 30 years, saying: “It seems imperative that flood risk for Devils Lake needs to be re-examined.”

Source:

<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2008/03/10/news/state/150738.txt>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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